THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH L. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Revelation 21. **Devotional Reading:** Revelation 7:9-17.

All Things New

Lesson for December 30, 1956

ON THE verge of New Year's Eve, our thoughts go forward to the New Year. But what will be new about it? We shall mostly have to "make do" with what we have, rather than find much that is brand-new. We shall be the same people. Sleeping between Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 is not going to change us a great deal. We shall live in the same house, have the same neighbors, the same problems, temptations, brains, bodies, bank account (if any), tax bills, diseases and prospects. What we can have that is new, is a new attitude to some of these things. But that is another story. What we have to think about here is another of the great chapters of the Bible, the one in which come the thrilling words, "Behold, I make all things new." What will life be like in that "new heaven and new earth" which is described here in shining pictures in the very last chapter of the Bible?

Dr. Foreman

Death Behind Us

In that life wherein all things are made new, not by clumsy man but by the power of God, what will be especially new—if you like, shockingly new, so new we shall not perhaps easily become used to it? First we can see a complete contrast with this present life, in that death will be always in the past, never in the future. The one thing that is certain about life on earth is that we shall all die. Death is the one certain prediction that can be made about every one who reads these lines. (Or, if Christ should come in your lifetime, you would undergo a radical change, just as radical as death itself, in any case.) But in that world where all is made new, death is behind every one, not in front; a memory, not a hope or a fear. The one experience which unites all men in this world is one which they have not yet had. But in that world of the redeemed, the experience of death is one they all shall have had. We cannot even imagine this, just how it will be. But think how much activity in this world is devoted to one object alone—to stave off death. All that will vanish with death itself.

Evil No More

Another absolutely and unimaginably new thing will be the complete riddance of all forms of evil, especially suffering and sin. (Ignorance and ugliness too no doubt will be done away with, but they do not weigh upon us here quite so painfully as the other two). No matter what your idea may be about sin and suffering, what they are and where they came from, you have to admit that human life is woven of these threads. At this very moment every reader's life would be radically different if he himself had never signed, and as for our neighbors' sins, and the sins of our ancestors, the world we have inherited is a world fashioned and controlled by sinners. It is only by the mercy of God that it is not worse than it is. Try to think what life would be if there were no form of evil affecting it whatever. You can't really think it; but that goes to show what an amazingly new state of things the "new heavens and earth" must be.

At Home With God

Most wonderful, and least imaginable, of all the new features of that life to come, is the presence of God. It is true, God is everywhere. But it is also true that God is in some places and situations and occasions more than others. What is said in **Revelation** about God's coming to dwell with men leads us to think of God's presence in the truly New World as being far more direct and less veiled than for us at our present stage of existence.

Indeed, as God is real to us in prayer far more (as a rule) than when we are feeding the hogs or getting a haircut, so the presence of God in the all-new World may be as far beyond our highest awareness of him here, as the prayer is more spiritual than the haircut or the hogs. All we know is that in this world we seldom do feel quite at ease in God's presence, and may even be seldom certain that he is near. But "over yonder," we shall be at home with God as we never been in this life. Foretastes of the New Life we may enjoy here: in freedom from fear of death, in a life growing more purified by the Spirit, in the "practice of the Presence of God"; but the fullness of glory we cannot imagine, only trust God that these things shall be.

Garrette Leader in Services

David A. Garrette, of Washington, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Garrette, of Appomattox, was a visitor in Appomattox this week. He visited the Times-Virginian, and showed the following news article reprinted from the Washington Post:

"Between 12 and 12:30 each noon the spirit of Jesus reigns at the end of the cylinder line in the huge engine overhaul shop of Capital Airlines at National Airport.

"The machinery quiets down, the noise of repair work is silenced, and in a secluded corner the words of the Carpenter of Nazareth are repeated by a mechanic from Appomattox.

"Listening to the Biblical verses that have comforted and inspired Christians down the ages is a group of a dozen or more mechanics, a sandwich or milk in one hand, their lunch boxes open.

"In the other hand is the New Testament, which they follow along with the reader.

"The idea for the noonday devotions originated with the Rev. David A. Garrette, pastor of the Wakefield Baptist Mission, Annandale, Va., and a mechanic in Capital Airlines machine shop.

"The members hope other workers in Government and industry will follow their example. 'Our main desire,' said Mr. Garrette, 'is that people take a more active part in the church and Christian life outside the church.'"

Last Friday, there were two guest speakers for the devotions.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year, payable in advance.

Stonewall

Stonewall, Dec. 24.- Well, old Santa will be coming to see all the good little boys and girls tonight. Go to bed early and dream about him and his reindeers.

Mr. and Mrs. Cantrell Smith and two girls, Nancy and Linda, of Kingsport, Tenn., are visiting her parents for Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Carson.

Rev. and Mrs. Bert Wilson and children, of Covington visited Mr. and Mrs. Lester Carson last Monday. Mr. Virgil Carson, of Roanoke visited in the same home last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Irby Wheeler spent Sunday in Lynchburg with Mr. and Mrs. John Wheeler.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Burnette and Louise and Aubrey Lee spent Sunday in Lynchburg with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burnette and family, it being Joe's birthday. Happy birthday to you, Joe, and may you see lots more..

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stephenson, Jr. and girls, Janet and Cynthia, of Norfolk, expect to spend next weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Chick.

Mr. Calvin Tanner, of Georgia, is here to spend the holidays with his wife and parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Vinson Russell and children, Mark and Bonnie Lynn, of Richmond expect to spend next week-end here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Carson, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cyrus, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beard and Lawrence, and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Drinkard, Jr. visited Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Chick over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Cantrell Smith and girls and Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Carson expect to visit Mrs. Lula Morgan and Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Carson for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Carson, Mr. and Mrs. Davis Smith and son, David were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Davidson and family on Sunday.

The Rev. Aaron Smith preached a Christmas sermon at Bethel and Trinity churches Sunday morning. He left Sunday night to spend the holidays with his parents near Virginia Beach. We wish for him a safe trip there and back to his home and his people.

Mrs. Elsie Caldwell, of Evington, Va. will spend Christmas with home folks here.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Gaudin, of Lynchburg spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davidson and son, Edward spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bondurant, Sr.

NATO forces could not defend western Europe without the use of atomic weapons, according to Gen. Norstad, commander of the NATO forces.

Housekeeping costs more these days in the nation's factories, mills and stores. So does the replacing of outdated machinery.

Talks on expansion of United States military bases in the Philippines have been suspended indefinitely.

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FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

Water Has Bearing On Milk Production

...have shown that providing ...by means of automatic drinking cups so animals have free access to water, increases the milk ...of high producing cows about ...cent over watering twice daily; ...to 11 per cent over watering ...daily.

...isn't hard to understand ...you consider that milk is 87 ...cent water. Including both the ...in the feed and the water ...is consumed as such, cows ...ble in about 3.5 to 5.5 pounds ...water per pound of milk produced. ...high protein feeds increase ...water consumption somewhat.

...12 to 15 gallons per head ...an average amount for a ...including both cows in milk ...dry cows. However, cows producing 75 to 100 pounds of milk a day may drink 35 to 40 gallons of water daily.

The use of automatic drinking cups saves labor. Cups also help in providing a more sanitary supply of water to the herd. A small, slow-moving stream is a potential source of disease organisms.

Water plays an important role in the barn and milk room, too. To produce high quality milk, the udder of the cow, the person doing the milking, and all the milking equipment must be clean. This means a lot of hot water.

A study made at VPI on the amount of hot water used in the barn and milk house for the various operations in producing high quality milk, testifies to this fact. The total amount used at one milking varies from 36 gallons for 15-cow dairies to 60 gallons for 30-cow dairies. The length of time the water was used during milking varies from 1 1-2 to 3 hours.

Smoother Sailing Seen Ahead For Hog Producers

Agricultural economists at VPI say the pig crop this fall is estimated at about 8 per cent below last year; and there is a possibility of a sizeable price recovery during the first half of 1957 with prices above the level of the previous year and with more than the usual seasonal strength.

Beyond mid-year of 1957, the outlook will depend on the size of the 1957 spring pig crop. The corn-hog ratio during September through December is usually a good indicator of the spring pig crop. A ratio below about 12.8 to 1 during this period usually indicates a decrease in pigs farrowed the following spring. The support on non - compliance corn could easily keep the corn-hog ratio below that point. If a further decline in spring farrowings does occur, as is now expected, the prospects for the last half of 1957 may be even brighter.

Appomattox farmers may find it desirable to get some sows bred and feed their corn through the pigs, rather than market it as grain.

Livestock, Dairy Farmers Lag In Labor-Saving Methods

Most dairy and livestock farmers have made few, if any, improvements in their methods of feeding for the past 20 years.

For instance, most farmers using tower silos handle the silage three times. This means that if 1,000 pounds of silage is fed, the farmer actually handles 3,000 pounds. Facilities can be arranged to reduce the number of times the silage is handled. Silo unloaders which will handle grain as well as corn silage may be used, as well as silage conveyors. The cost of handling silage is about the same using labor-saving equipment as it is by manual methods, but the labor is released for other jobs.

Horizontal silos are another answer for the hard-working livestock man. Self-feeding arrangements are good and should accomodate 1-5 of the cows at one time. If the silo is not built for self-feeding, the use of tractor mounted loaders and convenient silage feeders are suggested.

Grain moved in bulk by conveyors or gravity also saves time and labor. Bagging feed is costly and time-consuming.

Plans and detailed suggestions for labor-saving feeding equipment are available through county agents.

Land Prices Up, Debts Grow

In their annual look ahead at farming, the economists say a growing need for capital will cause farmers to borrow more money. An increasing proportion of the borrowing will be for capital improvements. New technology and rising labor costs will hasten the substitution of capital for labor. The kinds of adjustment needed for most types of farming will need to be financed through mortgages.

Credit is being used to finance the sale of about 3-4 of the farms sold. The volume of sales is about steady. Meanwhile, sale price increases and the consolidation under mortgages of other debts, are causing an increase in mortgage debt outstanding. The rise in the nation last year amounted to about $800,000,000, or 10 per cent.

In Virginia on January 1, 1956 the mortgage debt on farms was $135,000,000, up $8,000,000 in a year. The proportion of farms mortgaged continues to drop, while the average size of the mortgage increases.

Farm land prices continue to rise — faster in Virginia than in the nation as a whole. Farmers are buying land to expand their operations. Land is becoming increasingly attractive to industries and others who foresee a strong demand for timber. Industrial expansion in Virginia is putting a premium on land for plant sites.

Farmers who sell for industrial and other non-farm uses are often able to bid up prices in other areas when relocating. The residential developments in the area affected by new industry also contribute to rising land prices. The current trend toward rural residences helps to push land prices up for many miles out of the cities. However, the rate of increase has slowed down.

Some farmers who bought land to get additional acreage of allotted crops are finding it hard to carry the overhead costs. Such allotment land is reported to carry a premium of from $1,200 to $2,500 per acre of allotted crop. Every subsequent reduction in acreage makes the costs more burdensome.

Field Crop Outlook Depends On Soil Bank

The year 1956 was no true test since the soil bank program started late, but turned out to be little more than a drouth-relief program. Whether enough land goes into the soil bank program to materially affect farm output depends primarily on the rate of payments and the loan rates on price-supported crops.

Meanwhile, total feed-grain production for the United States in 1956 appears to be about the same as in 1955. Production o f oats, barley, and sorghum grains is down nationally, but this reduction is offset by the second largest corn crop on record (3.4 billion bushels). Corn production in Virginia is up 16 per cent from 1955 with a record yield per acre of about 48 bushels. Ample supplies of feed grains for slightly fewer livestock result in more grain per animal unit. Therefore, prices likely will remain reasonably favorable to feeders.

An increase in the production of wheat in the United States in 1956, plus carry-over, indicates a wheat supply for 1956-57 of over 2 billion bushels — a new record. Virginia production is up moderately. Market prices have been somewhat above a year earlier as a result of the new export program and drouth in the Southwest at planting time for winter wheat. With prices generally above the effective support level, there likely will be less wheat put under CCC loan than the 320,000,000 bushels in 1955. The new export program should reduce the supply in the year at least as much as the increased production for 1956.

Production of all hay is only slightly less than in 1955. Supplies are generally adequate for livestock on farms in most sections of the country. Two exceptions are the western corn belt and the great plains where dry weather cut back production of hay and pasture.

NEW BOOK IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY

The Fountain Overflows, by Rebecca West.

This is the story of the Aubrey family. Though at first one may wonder why such attention is paid to seemingly trivial detail, soon the reader is completely immersed in the affairs of the Aubreys — it is a family you know as well as your own, and what happens to them becomes of terrific importance.

Piers Aubrey was a newspaper man—a writer of brilliance but lacking stability in practical affairs. He could not hold any position, and money slipped through his fingers. When the story opens, the Aubreys are living in an out-of-the-way place in Scotland to save money. There are three girls, Cordelia, Mary and Rose, and a boy, Richard Quin. Mrs. Aubrey carried her family through the lean but eventful years cutting corners and pinching pennies.

Caution creeps back into the thinking of a growing number of business men, although most trade and manufacturing concerns are flying high.

The interest rate on 91-day treasury bills, considered a good indicator of money conditions and a barometer of inflationary pressures, has reached its highest level since 1933.

Russia has built a Navy second only to the United States but lags far behind in guided missiles and atomic propelled ships, according to the new issue of Jane's Fighting Ships.

World Bank plans to lend $50,000,000 to Australia.

The Canadian dollar is worth about 4 cents more these days than the American dollar — an indication that American dollars are flowing northward.

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